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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,505	06/27/2003	Murray Kaijala	CTS-2413	8637

7590 12/17/2004
Mark P. Bourgeois
CTS Corporation
905 West Boulevard North
Elkhart, IN 46514

EXAMINER

LEE, KYUNG S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2832

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,505

Applicant(s)

KAIJALA ET AL.

Examiner

Kyung S. Lee

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 9-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1203.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. The term "substantially insensitive" in claim 12, line 2 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "substantially insensitive" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Please clarify.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5, 9-18 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Leskoverc et al. (4,361,741).

Leskoverc et al. teaches a tension sensing device comprising:

a bracket 140 (figs. 2 and 3) connected to a seat 110 (via seat frame 112);

a movable bar 126 retained by the bracket 140 (col. 4, line 6);

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a sensor 124 (a switch) mounted between the bracket 140 and the movable bar 126 (fig. 2), the sensor providing an electrical signal indicative of magnitude of tension applied on the bar 126 (disclosed in fig. 2);

a spring 159 provided between the bracket 140 and the bar 126 for biasing the movable bar away from the bracket (col. 4, line 38). Regarding the biasing spring, the switch 124 being physically connected to one end of the movable bar 128 causes “biasing” since tension is applied to the bar.

Regarding claim 2, 156 is a housing mounted between the bracket and the bar.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, a switch 124, mounted between the housing 156 and the bracket 140 (fig. 2), is operable by the moveable bar.

Regarding claims 5 and 16, the housing 156 is adapted to engage the bracket to provide overload protection for the switch, since (via an adjustment screw 152) movement of the switch away from the movable bar would relieve tension to the switch.

Regarding claim 9, the wire harness is 168.

Regarding claim 10, 112 is a seat member.

Claim 11 is inherent use of Normally Open (NO) switch device.

Claim 12 is inherent adjustment of a tension to a movable bar to operate the switch device.

Regarding claim 13, bar 126 “wraps around the seat member” (a portion thereof). Please refer to fig. 2.

Regarding claim 15, the switch 124 is mounted on the housing 156. Please refer to fig. 2.

Regarding claim 17, an anchor bar is 126.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leskoverc et al.

Leskoverc et al. teaches the claimed invention except for the use of the tension sensing device to sense a presence of a child seat. It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ 2d 1647*.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 recites a specific "movable bar" structure engaging the bracket. The structure claimed in claim 6, in its entirety, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record. Claims 7 and 8 depend on claim 6.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung S. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1994. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 5:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kyung S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2832



12/10/04